

middle **TOWN NEWS** letter

August 2022



Vermont Statewide Primary Election
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
Polls are open from
7am-7pm
in the Historical Society's dining room
more info on page 3

participants, there will be two children's poetry workshops for kids from 8-12 years old.

Friday evening at 7:15 is the launch of the weekend, with an opening reception/meet-and-greet, including a brief talk by John Fox (Founder of the Institute for Poetic Medicine) about poetry as a tool for healing and community building.

Saturday and Sunday have five workshop sessions each. More detailed information about the event, the workshops and the instructors is at <https://stone-valley-arts.loxi.io/stone-valley-arts-literary-festival-a-celebration-of-the-written-word-august-5-6-7-799>

Admission for adults is \$80 for the full event and all workshops, or \$45 for either Saturday or Sunday. Kids can attend their sessions at no cost, thanks to the support of the Poultney Recreation Department.

Town-wide Yard Sale

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library invite you to participate in a town-wide Yard Sale on the Community Church Green in the center of town on **Saturday, September 10, 9 am - 3 pm.**

There are 24 (15' x 15') spaces available that will be marked on the green the day of the Yard Sale. Participants can apply for a space for a \$25 fee, or \$20 for Friends members.

Request a registration form and guidelines at the library or by emailing vtlittleflower13@gmail.com.

Completed registration forms may be dropped off at the library or mailed to: Wendy Herrick at 2 Buxton Ave. Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757. For more information, call Wendy at 802-235-3999.

Stone Valley Arts Literary Festival

Stone Valley Arts in Poultney is holding its own Literary Festival from **Friday – Sunday, August 5-7.**

This hands-on, active weekend features workshops in poetry, fiction writing, playwriting, and spoken-word performance. Although most of the sessions are directed toward adult and teen



Stuffed Animal Sleepover!

Back by popular demand! On **Tuesday, August 9, 2-6 pm, drop off** your stuffed animals for a library overnight of games, pizza, and stories just for them. It is important to make you're your stuffed animal feels confident sleeping away from you for the night.

Return the next day (**Wednesday, August 10**) for pick up and to see photos of all the fun the animals had. Join your stuffed animal for our **Teddy Bear Breakfast & final Story Hour, at 10 am.** The alternative pick-up option is 2-6 pm during Library open hours.

School News

Summer always seems to go by too fast. Before you know it, Middletown Springs Elementary School (MSES) students will be back in school with **the first day of school being August 31**. The school would like to extend an invitation to all community members for the Opening Day Community Breakfast. Look for more breakfast information as we get closer to the start of school.

The school is looking for **community members who would be interested in working at MSES's after school program** for kindergarten through sixth grade and pre-kindergarten students. The school offers a five-day week, 3:00-5:30 program and will need more paid staff to continue this important support for MSES's families. The program will provide training for everyone interested and will work with anyone interested on the hours and days available. The school is also looking for someone who would be interested in helping **part time with food service**. The school is also looking for a **soccer coach for the fall**. Please contact Rick Beal at rick.beal@grcsu.org you have any questions. Thank you.

MSES students **collaborated with Green Mountain Timber Frames** this spring to build a post and beam shed for the school garden. The students were involved in learning the skills to make mortises and tenons and erecting the building. The school would like to thank Luke and Sarah Larson for opening up their shop and sharing their knowledge with the students.

Wells Springs Union Unified School District received a **VT Farm to School Grant** for the upcoming school year. One of the main focuses of the grant is to have more locally grown foods used in the schools' food service program which will help students make connections to their food and strengthen the local economy. If you are interested in providing local produce or know of a farmer who might be interested, please contact the school.

Shared Outdoor Classroom & Community Space

Please support the Friends for Education (FFE) efforts to build a shared outdoor classroom/outdoor community space.

The American Academy of Pediatrics declared a national mental health emergency for American children; Middletown Springs is not exempt from this emergency.

Using outdoor space during the school day (beyond recess) has been shown to help children better recover from trauma, improve their overall mental and physical health as well as significantly improve academic outcomes.

An outdoor shared space for the community can be used for small markets, yoga and other exercise classes, community music concerts and book clubs, and other creative endeavors to bring the community together.

If you would like to help support this project, please contact [Ashley Fioretti](#), Friends for Education.

Highway Maintenance Crew Member

The Town of Middletown Springs is **accepting applications** for a full-time Highway Maintenance crew member. The successful candidate must hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) and a current DOT physical exam card. Experience in operating a variety of vehicles – plow/dump trucks, sander/salter, backhoe, front end loader – is desired. The ability to lift up to 75 pounds consistently and perform manual labor duties is required. Candidate must live within 45 minutes response time to Middletown Springs. Candidate must be willing to work a flexible schedule and long hours as situations arise. Mechanical ability is a plus.

This is a full-time position (40 hours per week), with wages based on experience. This position offers health insurance, retirement contributions, sick and vacation leave. Successful candidates must pass a pre-employment drug screen and must continue to comply with the Town's Drug and Alcohol Policy and Personnel Policy throughout their employment.

Applications for this position, as well as a copy of the Town's Drug and Alcohol Policy and Personnel Policy, may be obtained from the Middletown Springs Town Office or on the town's website <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov/town-departments/highway-department/>.

All applications should be submitted to the Middletown Springs Town Office, in person, by mail (PO Box 1232, Middletown Springs VT 05757), or by email at middletown@vermontel.net. Contact Middletown Springs Town Clerk, Patty Kenyon with any questions at 802-235-2220, or email middletown@vermontel.net.

The Town of Middletown Springs is an equal opportunity employer.

Primary Election – Tuesday, August 9

Tuesday, August 9, 2022, is the statewide Primary Election. **Polls will be open from 7am-7pm** and voting will take place in the **Historical Society's dining room**.

Absentee ballots: You may request absentee ballots from the Town Clerk via phone, email, in person or through the statewide voter portal at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Absentee ballots can be requested through Monday, August 8, 2022, but keep in mind that after August 2 you should plan to pick your ballots up and drop them back off at the town office.

Already have an absentee ballot? If you have an absentee ballot and have not yet returned it, please mail it by August 2 to ensure delivery or drop it off at the Town Office during open office hours or at the polling place on August 9. If you are mailing your ballot, please note that it requires a first-class stamp plus an extra ounce stamp or 84 cents.

Need to register to vote? You can do so online at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/> or by filling out an application in person at the town office. Vermont has same day voter registration, so you can even register to vote on August 9, just remember to bring a photo ID with you.

Wonder if you ARE registered to vote? Check your status at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> or contact the Town Clerk.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk,
middletown@vermontel.net 802-235-2220

Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9am to 4pm
Thursday & Friday 1pm to 4pm

Historical Society Museum

The Middletown Springs **Historical Society Museum is open** every Sunday (2-4 pm) until the end of October, or by appointment. Call David Wright at 802-235-2376 for more information

Book Walk Starts at Library!

This month the Book Walk has two stories and has reversed direction. It starts at the Library and ends at the School.

Dear Mr. Blueberry by Simon James
Seashore by Lucy Beckett-Bowman

Property Tax Bills

New Property Tax Bills for fiscal year 22/23 will be mailed to you by mid-August.

Please SAVE your bill for future reference. Even if your mortgage company pays your taxes, you will likely need this document when you file your April income taxes or refinance or sell your property.

Included on your tax bill will be a homestead rebate IF you applied and qualified for it. The State of Vermont determines if you are eligible for a rebate.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your homestead rebate, contact the [Vermont Department of Taxes](#).

IMPORTANT: If your mailing address has changed, please advise. Also, if you have not received your new bill by mid-August, please email mtstreasurer@vermontel.net (or call 235-3256) and confirm your name, parcel address and mailing address.

Mark your calendar- your first payment for the new tax year will be due on or before September 15, 2022.

Milestones

What can be published as a *Milestone*? Any major event in your life, such as: a birth, a death, a marriage, a new job, or a recent graduation. If you have something you'd like to announce, please send us an [email](#) and we will include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

If you send a longer announcement, we may need to edit for space but will do our best to keep the tone.

FREE Covid Test Kits

The library has Covid-19 antigen self-test kits to hand out. They are from the Vermont Health Department and are to be used this summer and fall. Pick up some to have on hand to use:

- if you have symptoms,
- if you have had close contact with someone who has COVID,
- if you are going to travel or go to a big gathering.

If you test positive, reduce the chance of giving it to others by staying home.

Calendar of EVENTS

SVA Literary Festival	Aug 5 – Aug 7		Slate Valley Arts
Primary Election	Tues, Aug 9	7am-7pm	Historical Society
Stuffed Animal Sleepover	Tues, Aug 9	2-6pm (drop off)	Library
Teddy Bear Breakfast & Story Time	Wed, Aug 10	10 am	Library
First Day of School	Wed, Aug 31		MSES
Town-wide Yard Sale	Sat, Sept 10	9am-3pm	on the Green

Calendar of Regular Meetings

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	3 rd Thurs /5:30pm	Library	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Association	2 nd Wed / 7pm	Firehouse	Art Castle (235-2351)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Tues / 7:15pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1 st Thurs / 7pm	MSSH	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4 th Wed / 7pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1 st Mon /TBA	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Heather Grier (236-7643)
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed / 6pm	MSES/WES	Agenda & Virtual Link
Wells Springs Community Comm.	2 nd Wed / 7pm	virtual only	Agenda & Link

Summer at the Library



Story Time – Wednesdays at 10am: Join Kayli O’Donnell, for stories, games and activities, and a snack outside under the big shade tree, Wednesdays at 10 am, through August 10.

Drop-in for Self-Guided Activities: Over the course of the summer, learn some new knots, challenge yourself with ocean trivia, or use the chalk to draw a seascape on the library sidewalk.

Adult Summer Reading Bingo: Why should kids have all the fun? Pick up a bingo card. Complete one line of at least five squares, return it to the library to be entered in a drawing to win a prize.

Check out “Something to Do” with Activity Kits, Museum or Park Passes, and Lawn or Board Games.

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don’t regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who [sign up](#). It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$7 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Crossman’s Store, and the library.

Front Porch Forum

Join [Front Porch Forum](#) to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
 PO Box 1206
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month